

New in 1997

- Stop devices are no longer required on snares.
- Fisher Management Zones have been expanded, see map on inside panel.

Trapping Hours

- Legal trapping hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST (7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. DST).

License and Permit Information

1. **Residency:** You must be a Wisconsin resident to purchase a Wisconsin trapping license. Nonresidents are not eligible. **Cost:** \$15.00 (See also “**Trapper Education**” inside.)
2. **Duplicates:** You can acquire a duplicate trapping license if you provide an affidavit proving the loss of the original license.
3. **Use:** *You may not:*
 - transfer your license, permit or tag, or allow its use by anyone else.
 - carry any trapping license, permit or tag issued to anyone else.
 - obtain a trapping license, permit or tag for someone else.
4. **Purchasing Fur:** You must possess a Fur Dealers License or DNR permit to purchase fur.
5. **Animals Causing Damage:** During the closed season, a DNR permit may be required to remove nuisance animals. Contact your nearest wildlife manager or nearest DNR office for details.
6. **Landowner Provisions:** The owner or occupant of any land, and family members, *do not need a license to:*
 - trap beaver, foxes, raccoon, woodchucks, rabbits and squirrels on the land year-round. All other restrictions apply. (See “**Beaver Damage Control**” on inside panel for more information.)
 - live trap with box traps beaver, rabbits, raccoons and squirrels on the land at any time in cities, villages or other areas where the discharge of firearms is unlawful. Live trapped animals must be either killed or released after capture.

Special Regulations Bobcat, Fisher and Otter



Permits and Tags

You may not:

- trap or attempt to trap any bobcat, fisher or otter unless you possess special DNR permits and tags:
 1. Permit and tag applications (Form 9400-478) are available from DNR offices listed on the back panel of this pamphlet or the Information Center in Madison starting in early August. Mail applications, with the \$3.00 application fee per species, to the DNR License Section, Box 7924, Madison, WI 53707. Ap-

plications must be postmarked no later than Sept. 10 or received in person at the DNR Information Center, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, by that same date.

2. You must possess your valid license, permit and tags while trapping.
- possess or have under control any bobcat, fisher or otter unless you immediately attach and seal a valid pelt tag through the opening of the animal's mouth to the opening of its eye, immediately beneath the skin. The pelt tag shall remain attached to the pelt until removed by a fur dresser or taxidermist at time of preparation.

Registration

You may not:

- transfer, give, trade, sell, or purchase any bobcat, fisher or otter pelt unless it bears a DNR registration tag attached by an authorized DNR representative.
- possess fisher, bobcat, or otter pelts *later than 5 days after the established season closes* without registering the pelt(s) with an authorized DNR representative. Bobcat must be registered in the county where trapped or an adjoining county.

You must skin bobcat, fisher and otter and separate the pelt from the carcass before registering the pelts at designated DNR stations. In addition, you must present bobcat carcasses when pelts are registered; the DNR retains the carcasses for research purposes. Station locations vary. Watch for newspaper notices prior to the season or contact your nearest DNR office.

Methods

All live furbearing animals taken during the open season for such species shall be killed immediately and made part of the daily bag. It is unlawful to keep such animals alive after their capture, unless you have first obtained the DNR permit or license that permits their possession.

Elevated traps are legal for furbearers as long as the sight exposed bait law is followed.

You may not:

- place a trap, snare, bait or scent for furbearing animals during the closed season.
- set any trap or snare unless a metal tag is attached, stamped or engraved legibly with the name and address of the owner. Heavy-duty stamped tags are desirable.
- take or attempt to take beaver, fisher, mink, muskrat or otter by any means other than trapping or snaring.
- possess any trap for the purpose of catching furbearing animals other than a steel-jawed trap, live trap or snare. Such traps shall be constructed so that not more than one animal can be taken or captured.
- molest or take someone else's traps, snares or trapped animals.
- operate more than 75 traps or snares in any combination.

Trap Theft: Stealing or molesting traps or snares is a criminal act and is punishable by fine (\$300-\$1,000), imprisonment (up to 90 days) or both, and a mandatory 5-year revocation of license.

- disturb or molest any mink den, muskrat house, muskrat feeding house or beaver dam.
- place on the ice, any artificial house or den for the purpose of catching any furbearing animals.

Trap Checking Requirements and Placement and Size Restrictions

Definitions: 1. Dry set means a trap set or staked to be completely on dry land with no possibility of the trap or trapped animal to reach water. ***You must check dry sets at least once each day and remove any captured animal from the set.*** 2. Wet set means a trap which is set or staked in a manner to permit the trap or trapped animal to reach water at any point. ***You must check wet sets at least once each day and remove any captured animal from the set.*** 3. Capable of drowning means a set designed to allow the trapped animal to travel to water of sufficient depth to cause drowning. Slide wires or poles, locking devices, slip chains, weighted traps and traps staked in deep water are commonly used in drowning sets. ***Sets capable of drowning must be checked within a 4 day period following the last tending of the set and any captured animals removed from the set.*** You must monitor water levels to ensure effective drowning sets. 4. There is no mandated trap checking period for sets made under the ice. 5. Sight exposed bait means any bait which can be seen from above the bait.

Consider all set placement to avoid contact with humans and domestic animals. We strongly encourage the use of cubbys and elevated sets when using conibear type traps on dry land. Future use of conibear type traps depends on it!

You may not:

- set, place or operate any *waterset* smaller than 5 and 1/2 inch jaw spread for steel-jawed traps and 6 and 3/4 inch x 6 and 3/4 inch for killer traps (conibear type) during the beaver and other seasons, *except* when the muskrat/mink season is open in the zone you are trapping.
- set, place or operate any steel-jawed trap with a spread width of more than 8 inches.
- operate trap sets which permit the trapped animal to reach water, except when the muskrat, beaver or other trapping season is open in the zone you are trapping.
- set any trap or snare closer than 15 feet from any beaver dam. (Landowners see “**Beaver Damage Control**” on inside panel).
- set, place or operate any killer trap (conibear type) that is larger than 7 x 7 inches *unless one-half of the trap is located underwater at all times.* more ➞

Size and Placement Restrictions *continued*

You may **not**:

- set, place, or operate any snare regardless of the noose size, *unless one-half of the snare noose is located underwater at all times.*
- set, place or operate any steel-jawed trap with teeth unless such traps are located completely underwater at all times.
- set, place or operate any killer trap (conibear type) greater than 6 x 6 inches or any snare regardless of the size of the noose in the following locations:
 1. Within 3 feet of any federal, state or county road right-of-way culvert unless completely submerged in water.
 2. Within 3 feet of any woven or welded wire fence.
 3. Within 100 yards of any building devoted to human occupancy without the owners consent.
- use sight exposed bait consisting of feathers, animal flesh, fur, hide or entrails within 25 feet of any trap.
- set, place or operate any snare unless the noose cable and noose attachments conform to the following specifications:
 1. Cable length may not exceed 5 feet.
 2. It must be non-stainless steel metal cable or wire.
 3. The cable or wire diameter may not exceed 1/8 inch.
 4. It must have a mechanical lock and anchor swivel.

Possession Restrictions

Definitions: (1) *Raw fur* means the undressed skins or pelts of any furbearing animal, including ones that have been stretched and dried. (2) *Green pelts* are the skins or pelts of any furbearing animal that have not been stretched and/or dried.

You may **not**:

- possess the green pelts of any furbearing animal, except beaver, beginning on the 6th day after the season closes.
- possess a bobcat, fisher or otter pelt at any time, unless a valid carcass tag is attached and locked to the pelt.
- possess any mink, muskrat, fisher, or otter pelt that has been shot or speared.
- possess any raw fisher, mink, muskrat or otter pelt at any time without a current trapping or fur dealer's license or special permit issued by the DNR.
- ship fur unless the outside of the container is marked with the number and species being shipped, and the name, address and trapping license number of the shipper.

Animals Protected at All Times

Badger, Canada lynx, cougar, elk, flying squirrel, moose, pine marten, timber wolf, white deer, wolverine and any other endangered or threatened species.



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Special Rule Clarifications

- **Trapping Navigable Waterways:** Trapping in Wisconsin, even on navigable waters, constitutes a trespass and, therefore, *all trappers must obtain permission before trapping on any private land, even if entry is by public waterways (enforced by sheriff's department).*
- **Staking of Trap Sites:** Using stakes to mark a trap site anywhere prior to the season opener has no legal basis and does not reserve the site for the person placing the stake.

DNR Field Stations

Contact these field stations for tagging dates

Office hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Central Office (Madison)	608-266-2621
South Central Region (Madison)	608-275-3266
Dodgeville Area	608-935-3368
Horicon Area	414-387-7860
Southeast Region (Milwaukee)	414-263-8500
Kettle Moraine State Forest N. Unit	414-626-2116
Kettle Moraine State Forest S. Unit	414-594-6200
Bong (Racine Co.)	414-878-5600
Bong (Kenosha Co.)	414-652-0377
Hartford (Pike Lake)	414-670-3400
Plymouth	414-892-8756
Northeast Region (Green Bay)	920-492-5800
Sturgeon Bay Service Center	920-746-2860
Oshkosh Area	920-424-3050
Peshtigo Service Center	715-582-5000
West Central Region (Eau Claire)	715-839-3700
Baldwin	715-684-2914
Wisconsin Rapids Area	715-421-7800
Black River Falls Area	715-284-1400
La Crosse Area	608-785-9000
Wausau	715-359-4522
Northern Region	
Rhineland	715-365-8900
Antigo Area	715-627-4317
Woodruff Area	715-356-5211
Spooner	715-635-2101
Brule Area	715-372-4866
Cumberland Area	715-822-3590
Park Falls Area	715-762-3204

Wisconsin Trappers Association
N307 Third Avenue
Portage, WI 53901

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1997 Wisconsin Trapping Regulations



Restricted entry cubbies for conibear traps are practical, effective and easily made. The DNR and Wisconsin Trappers Association strongly recommend their use at all times on land to prevent the catch of non-target animals which threatens future use of conibears. Contact the WDNR or WTA for a copy of "Safe and Ethical Use of Conibears," a booklet explaining cubbies with detailed instructions for set designs.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
PUBL-WM-002 97REV

Support ETHICAL RESPONSIBLE TRAPPING
Report Violations
Call 1-800-TIP-WDNR
(1-800-847-9367)

Toll Free Statewide 24-Hour Confidential
(This is NOT an information number)